

DC
MAXI-SERIES 4 of 12

AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD

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NO. 4
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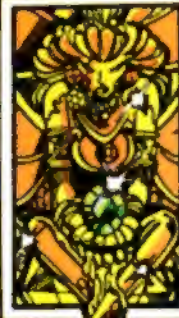


THE NEW



THERE'S NO
STOPPING
US NOW.

colan



AMY WINSTON'S NIGHTS WERE FILLED WITH DREAMS--WITH VISIONS OF A LOST LEGACY! THEN SHE DISCOVERED THAT SHE WAS NO CHILD OF EARTH, BUT THE ORPHANED HEIR TO A MYSTIC THRONE...

AMETHYST

PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

I'M CHANGING AGAIN...

EVERY TIME I DO THIS I'M NOT SURE IT'S GOING TO--

WAIT! SOMETHING'S WRONGS...! I CAN FEEL IT! IT'S...

AAIEE!

OW! GOSH! WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED INTO NOW?

DARK JOURNEYS!

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ANETHYST, BEWARE! YOU CANNOT RISK FOLLOWING A TRAIL THAT LEADS TO UNKNOWN DANGERS!

A SPELL OF DIVINATION COULD FIRST REVEAL THE NATURE OF CITRINA'S TROUBLES!

IT'S DARK CARL! HE'S THE ONE THAT'S GOT HER!

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

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IT'S DARK GAZ! HE'S THE ONE THAT'S GOT HER!

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO... I STILL KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT WHAT MY POWERS CAN DO!

BUT IT MAKES SENSE FOR ME TO TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT I'M UP AGAINST BEFORE I--

OPAL!

OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO... I STILL KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT WHAT MY POWERS CAN DO!

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OPAL!

OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO... I STILL KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT WHAT MY POWERS CAN DO!

BUT IT MAKES SENSE FOR ME TO TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT I'M UP AGAINST BEFORE I--

OPAL!

-- IF YOU USE YOUR SORCERY TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER ABSENT SPIRIT!

THAT'S AN IDEA...! THERE'S A SAYING ON EARTH THAT THE EYES ARE THE WINDOWS OF THE SOUL!

IF I CAN ONLY REACH OUT TO HER...

-- IF YOU USE YOUR SORCERY TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER ABSENT SPIRIT!

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IF I CAN ONLY REACH OUT TO HER...

WITCH-MOTHER, CAN YOU HEAR ME? PLEASE ANSWER...

A close-up, high-contrast illustration of a woman's face, likely from a comic book. She has large, expressive blue eyes and a slightly open mouth, showing her teeth. Her skin is a deep red or pinkish hue. A speech bubble in the upper left corner contains the text: "I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT I NEED YOUR--". The style is reminiscent of classic comic book art, with bold lines and a limited color palette.

STAY--
BARACK--

CITRINA?!

THE WARNING COMES IN WEIRD, NONHUMAN TONES...

STAY--
BARACK--

CITRINA?!

THE WARNING COMES IN WEIRD, NONHUMAN TONES...

STAY--
BARACK--

CITRINA?!

THE WARNING COMES IN WEIRD, NONHUMAN TONES...

STAY--
BARACK--

CITRINA?!

THE WARNING COMES IN WEIRD, NONHUMAN TONES...

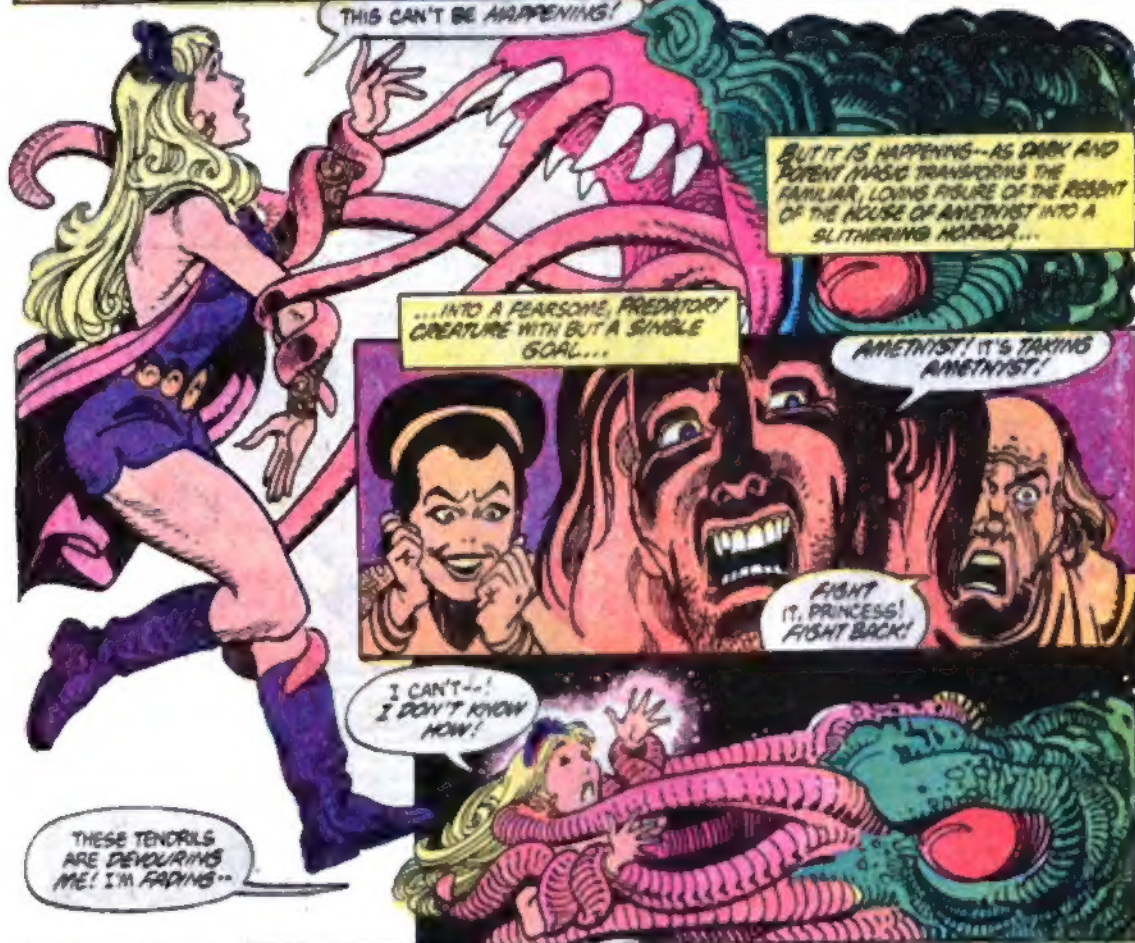


...BUT IT COMES TOO LATE!

NO... NO!
STOP IT!

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE THIS...

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!



BUT IT IS HAPPENING--AS DARK AND
POWERFUL MAGIC TRANSFORMS THE
FAMILIAR, LOVING FIGURE OF THE REGENT
OF THE HOUSE OF AMETHYST INTO A
SLITHERING HORROR...

...INTO A FEARSOME, PREDATORY
CREATURE WITH BUT A SINGLE
GOAL...

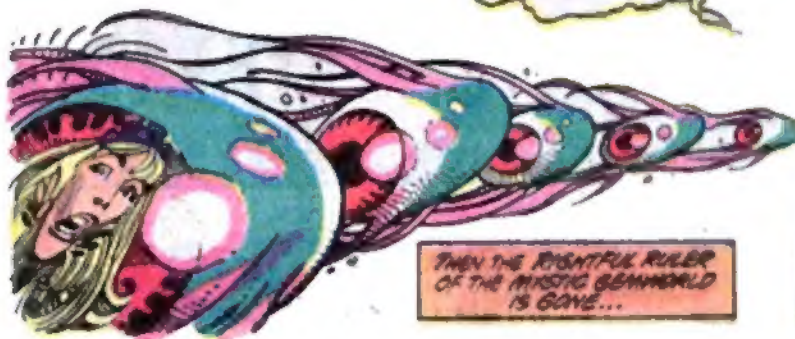
AMETHYST! IT'S TAKING
AMETHYST!

FIGHT
IT, PRINCESS!
FIGHT BACK!

I CAN'T...!
I DON'T KNOW
HOW!

THESE TENTACLES
ARE DEVOURING
ME! I'M FADING...

--AWAAAY!



THEN THE RIGHTEFUL RULER
OF THE MYSTIC GEMWORLD
IS GONE...



AND ON ANOTHER WORLD--AND IN ANOTHER WAY--
HER DISAPPEARANCE HAS BEEN NOTED AS WELL...

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, HELEN... WOULD YOU LIKE
TO COME IN AND SAY HELLO TO HERB AND AMY?



WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT,
I'VE GOT A BIRTHDAY PRESENT
FOR YOUR NEW TEENAGER!

HI, DEAR, I-- GOODNESS,
WHAT'S WRONGS?!

IT'S AMY...!
SHE-- SHE'S
GONE!



OH NO! NOT
AGAIN!

NOW WAIT, IT CAN'T BE AS
BAD AS ALL THAT...

AT HER AGE THEY START
TO TEST THEIR INDEPEND-
ENCE, BUT IT'S JUST
PART OF GROWING UP!



MAYBE HELEN'S RIGHT,
HERB... SHE--

NO! NO! YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND! SHE
VANISHED INTO
THIN AIR! I SAW
IT!



OUR DAUGHTER IS NOT OF THIS EARTH--
AND WHEREVER IT IS SHE DOES
COME FROM...

SHE'S
GONE
BACK!



THE LOSS OF A CHILD IS A
PARENT'S GREATEST TRAGEDY...

AND YET IT IS IN THE NATURAL COURSE OF THINGS THAT
CHILDREN WILL LEAVE THEIR PARENTS' HOME --

-- FOR SONS AND DAUGHTERS MUST GROW AND
MAKE THEIR OWN LIVES.

HERE ON THE GEMWORLD--IN THE EMERALD
DOMAIN--THE TIME HAS COME FOR JUST SUCH A
LEAVETAKING...

THE BANDS ARE PLAYING AND THE CITY IS
FESTOONED WITH BANNERS...

THE CITIZENRY HAVE ALL
TURNED OUT AND THE
ROYAL COACH AWAITS!

BUT THE BANDS
ARE PLAYING
DIRGES... AND
THE COLORFUL
PENNANTS ARE
MEANT AS A LAST
REMINDER OF
HOME--

--FOR ONE WHO MAY BE
LEAVING IT FOREVER!

DAUGHTER--?

MY
DARLING,
WHAT CAN
I SAY?

I USED ALL THE
POWER AT MY COMMAND
TO FORESTALL THIS
DAY... BUT DARK DARL'S
WILL MUST BE OBEYED!

PLEASE TRY TO
UNDERSTAND...!

BUT FROM THE PRINCESS EMERALD
THERE IS NO REPLY...

...WHILE ALONG THE FORTIFIED TERRAIN AROUND FORTRESS ORAL--

--THE BEASTS OF THE GENWORLD PLAY THEIR OWN SPECIAL ROLE IN THE UNFOLDING HUMAN DRAMA!

THE SMALLER CREATURE IS OF A BREED NOTED FOR ITS IMPETUOUSNESS AND CURIOSITY...

...CURIOSITY QUITE AROUSED BY THE STRANGE BATTLE IT HAS JUST WITNESSED HERE! *

* SEE LAST ISSUE -- VB

THE GARGANTUAN REPTILE THAT IS THE SENTRY OF THE FAMILY ORAL'S MAUSOLEUM--

-- WAS THE UNFORTUNATE LOSER IN THAT RECENT SKIRMISH...

BUT ORAL, ITS NOW-DEPARTED MANDRILLER LEFT A DELIGHTFUL BAUBLE BEHIND HIM WHEN HE MOVED ON...

AND NO INSTINCT TO BRY CLEAR OF DANGER DETERS THIS LITTLE LIZARD AS HE SCURRIES TOWARD THE SHINING PURPLE GEN!

AND AT THE SAME TIME...



I MUST GO NOW, LADY MOTHER... PRINCE CARNELIAN AWAITS.

THE CARRIAGE SLOWLY PASSES THROUGH THE OPEN GATES OF THE GREAT WALLED CITY...

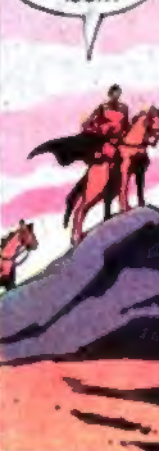


...LEAVING SORROW IN ITS STEAD-- AND A WOMAN WHO HAS DONE HER DUTY AS THE LEADER OF HER PEOPLE--

--ONLY TO FEEL THAT SHE HAS FAILED AS A MOTHER...



BY MY FATHER'S GRACE, THERE SHE IS--AND RIGHT ON TIME, TOO...

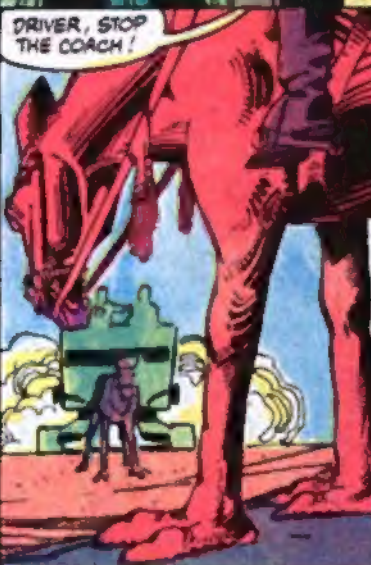


I WAS CERTAIN LADY EMERALD WOULD REBEL AT THE LAST MOMENT!



DARK OPAL WILL BE MOST PLEASED!

COME--LET US RIDE TO MEET THE DAMEL!



DRIVER, STOP THE COACH!



WE WILL ESCORT THE FAIR PRINCESS--



--FROM HERE TO HER NEW ABODE...

...AT FORTRESS OPAL!

THE CURIOUS CREATURE GRASPS THE GLITTERING VIOLET FRAGMENT.



...WONDERS AT THE BRIGHT FILAMENT OF MAGIC THAT RUNS AWAY FROM IT--



--AND DOWN THE MONSTER LIZARD'S BULLET--



--TO A PLACE UNLIKE THE BELLY OF ANY BEAST!



THE AMETHYST FRAGMENTS ARE STILL CONNECTED--



--PROVIDING MY LIFELINE FROM THIS NETHERPLACE BACK TO THE GEMWORLD!

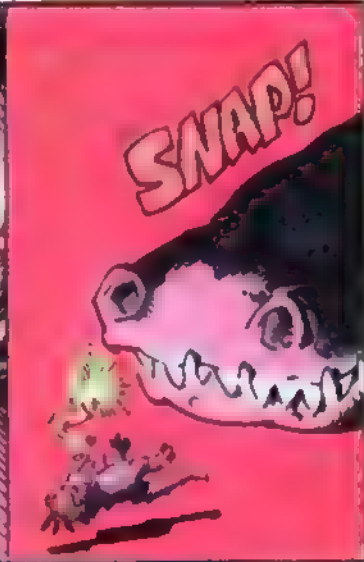


THE CRUELTY OF MY FATHER, DARK OPAL, TRULY KNOWS NO LIMITS! THAT HE SHOULD CONDEMN MY SIBLINGS TO ROT IN THIS Foul DIMENSION FOR-- EH?!

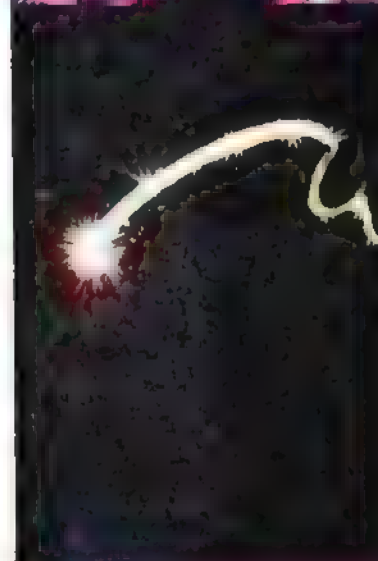


SOMETHING IS PULLING ON THE MYSTIC STRAND! I MUST HOLD IT TIGHTLY!

IF IT SLIPS AWAY FROM ME--



SNAP!

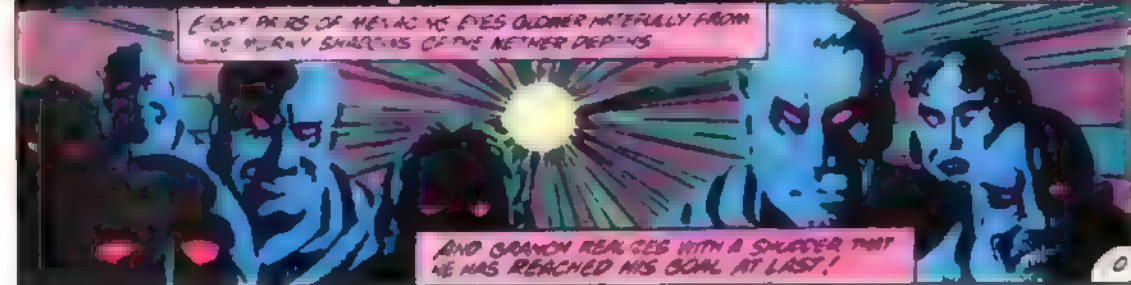


I AM LOST!

I WILL NEVER FIND THE ROUTE BACK TO THE GEMWORLD WITHOUT--

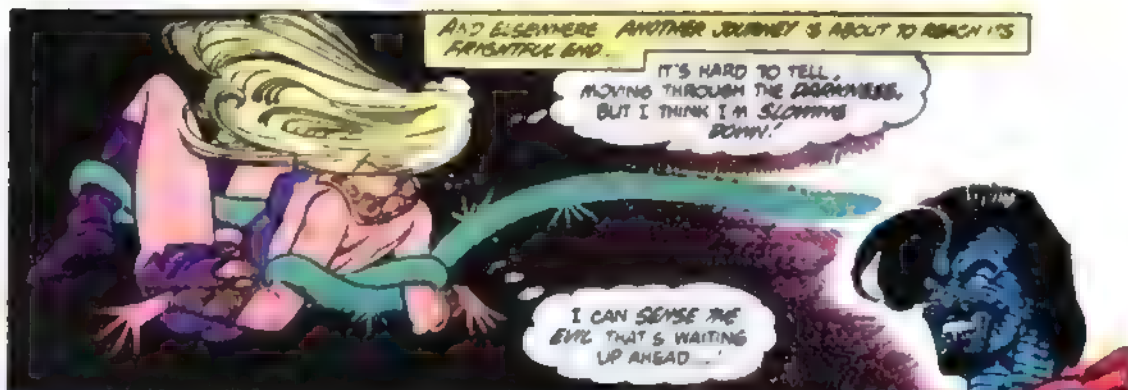


GER-MUNCH--!



EIGHT PAIRS OF MENACE EYES GLOOMED MATERIALLY FROM THE MURKY SHADOWS OF THE NETHER DEPTHS

AND GRANCH REALIZES WITH A SHUDDER THAT HE HAS REACHED HIS GOAL AT LAST!



AND ELSEWHERE ANOTHER JOURNEY IS ABOUT TO REACH ITS FRUITFUL END...

IT'S HARD TO TELL,
MOVING THROUGH THE DARKNESS,
BUT I THINK I'M SLOWLY
COMING!

I CAN SENSE THE
EVIL THAT'S WAITING
UP AHEAD...



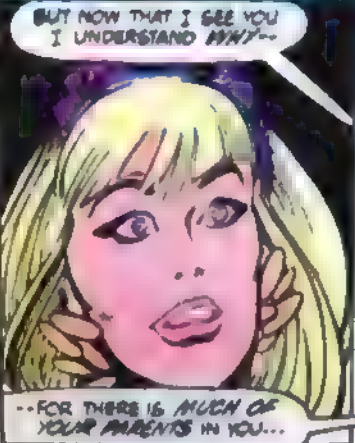
WE MEET AT
LAST YOUNG
ANTHONY...

WELCOME
TO MY HOME!

DARK
GIRL!

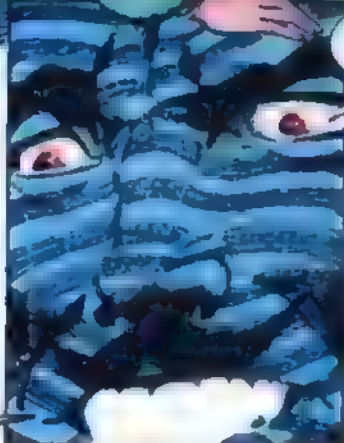
YOU HAVE
TAKEN UP THE
ADVERSARY'S ROLE
QUITE QUICKLY,
GIRL...

--AND MORE
ABLY THAN I
WOULD HAVE
IMAGINED



BUT NOW THAT I SEE YOU
I UNDERSTAND WHY--

--FOR THERE IS MUCH OF
YOUR PARENTS IN YOU...



...ESPECIALLY YOUR BEAUTIFUL
MOTHER! SHE TOO ONCE ROUTED
SARDONYX AND ALL HIS ARMIES...

BUT SHE NEVER
CONQUERED ME!



THAT'S A MISTAKE THAT I'LL JUST HAVE TO CORRECT, I GUESS!

ARRRRHH!

I GOT HIM! I BLASTED DARK ORG! AND I BROKE FREE OF THE--



YES, QUITE ABLY INDEED, PRETTY PRINCESS!



YOU-- YOU'RE NOT HURT--?



ON THE CONTRARY, MY DEAR, I AM ELATED.

I FEARED YOU WOULD PUT UP NO FIGHT AT ALL!

BUT NOW WE WILL HAVE SOME SPORT--

AND YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN HOW ABUNDANTLY SUPERIOR MY SORCERY IS TO YOURS.



BEFORE YOU DIE!

I OUGHT TO BE SCARED... BUT I'M NOT!

MAYBE IT'S WHAT HE SAID ABOUT MY MOTHER-- MY REAL MOTHER, LADY AMETHYST!

THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ANY WINSTON ANYMORE...

... BECAUSE AS AMY I NEVER HAD THE POWER TO--

CR-PES! IT LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT NOT HAVE THE POWER NOW!

I BARELY STOPPED THAT THING-- AND IT DESTROYED MY SHIELD IN THE PROCESS!

AMETHYST, TAKE HEED! DO NOT RELY ON DEFENSIVE SPELLS! THEY WILL ONLY FALL BEFORE MIGHTIER MAGIC...

AND HERE ON HIS HOME GROUND, LORD OGAR IS MIGHTIER THAN ANY FOE YOU HAVE EVER FACED!

OR EVER WILL, WITCH-MOTHER!

BUT THINK OF HOW MY POTENCY WILL BE INCREASED WHEN I GAIN CONTROL OF HER GEMSTONE!

NO! YOU WILL NEVER POSSESS THE AMETHYST!

HE HEN T, CITRINA! I'M LETTING LOOSE WITH MY BEST SHOT--

--AND WE'LL SEE IF MGS SHIELDS CAN HOLD UP AGAINST MY MAGIC!

OH, OH...

OH, OH...

OH, OH...

OH, OH...

DO NOT BE SO QUICK, LITTLE PRINCESS--

-- TO CONGRATULATE YOURSELF

OR TO DISMISS OUR POWER SO LIGHTLY!

WE ARE DARK OGAR! WE ARE THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE AND OF THIS WORLD--

--AND WE RULE ALL WHO DWELL HEREUPON!



YOU GIRL ARE BUT A PRETENDER TO OUR THRONE. AND LIKE ANY WOULD BE USURPER.



YOU SHALL BE DESTROYED!



BARELY GOT A SHIELD UP IN TIME, BUT--

HEY! IT DIDN'T BREAK!



MAYBE IT'S STRONGER WHEN IT TAKES THE BLAST AT AN ANGLE...

AND THAT MEANS I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUT DARK CRAWL'S MAGIC TO WORK FOR ME!

IF I CAN JUST REMEMBER WHAT RITA'S DAD SHOWED US HOW TO DO ON HIS NEW POOL TABLE...

OH BOY! IT WORKED! SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS!



CITRINA! IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN GET US OUT OF HERE NOW?

YES MY CHILD BUT WE MUST HURRY!



LOVE AND LET MY SPIRIT FORM ENFOLD YOU AND THEN WE WILL BE--



GOOE! CURSE THAT OLD WITCH A THOUSAND TIMES! BUT BEWARE, AMETHYST... FOR I AM NOT BEATEN YET!

AND WHILE THE DARK LORD RAGES
AND ISSUES BLACK THREATS,
THE OBJECTS OF HIS FURY RACE
FOR THE SHELTER OF CASTLE
AMETHYST BY STRANGE AND
MUNDANE MEANS...

IN THE NAME
OF THE TWELVE,
WHAT NEW
BEDEVILMENT
IS THIS?!

THE WALL
TAKES ON THE
WITCH-MOTHER'S
ASPECT--AND
NOW IT SEEMS
TO--

CITRINA, YOU DID IT! YOU
GOT US HOME!

WE'RE SAFE
NOW, WITCH-MOTHER!
AND SOON YOU CAN
START TO TEACH ME
ALL ABOUT--

PRINCESS--!

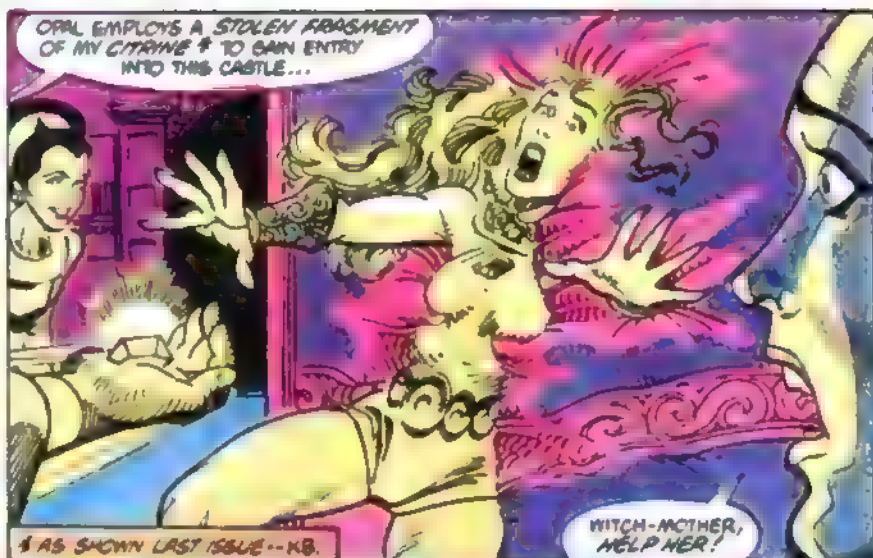
AND YOU
MADE IT BACK
INTO YOUR
BODY AGAIN!
GREAT!

HEY! CHLOE DARK
CAN PREPARE
THE ATTACK!

AAAAH! TOO LATE!
HE'S GOT HOLD OF ME
AND HE WON'T
LET GO!



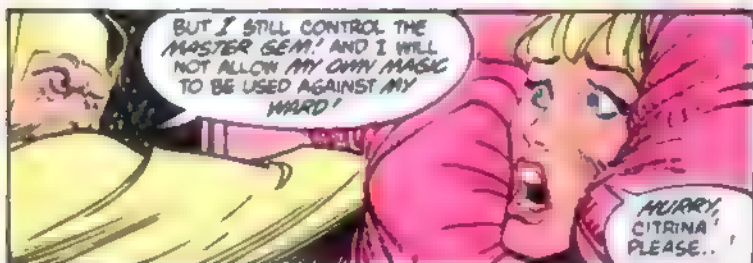
HE
SMALL!



OPAL EMPLOYED A STOLEN FRAGMENT
OF MY CITRINE & TO GAIN ENTRY
INTO THIS CASTLE...

AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE--KB.

WITCH-MOTHER,
HELP HER!



BUT I STILL CONTROL THE
MASTER GEM, AND I WILL
NOT ALLOW MY OWN MAGIC
TO BE USED AGAINST MY
WARD!

HURRY,
CITRINA!
PLEASE..!



NO!



SHE IS WITHDRAWING
THE CITRINE FRAGMENT
AND SHUTTING THE
PORTAL!

BUT MY
HAND..

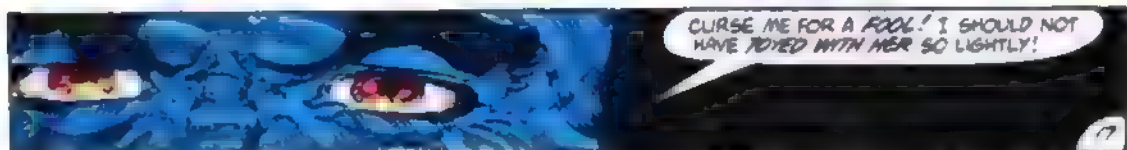


MY
HAND!

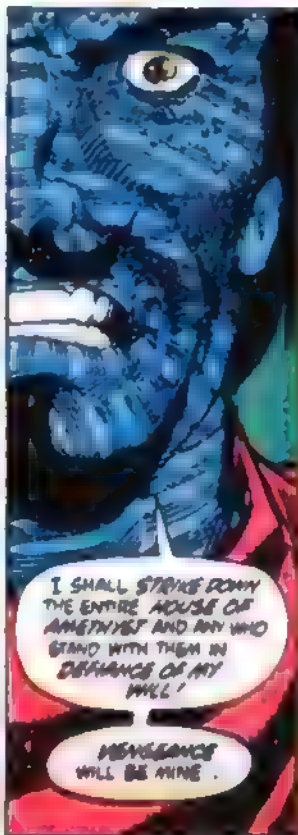


WE'VE WON, CITRINA! WE'VE BEATEN
HIM-- THANKS TO YOU!

AND TO YOUR CHILD!
BUT THIS WAS ONLY
ONE BATTLE.. THE
WAR GOES ON!



CURSE ME FOR A FOOL! I SHOULD NOT
HAVE TOYED WITH HER SO LIGHTLY!



FAR, FAR AWAY-- NEAR THE CORNER OF THE GEMWORLD
WHERE THE SUN RISES FROM A ROLLING SEA--

--STANDS TOWARD A MAJESTIC EDIFICE WHOSE
GLISTENING DOMES SEEM UNAFFECTED BY THE DARK
HAND OF THE LORD OF THE HOUSE OF ORIL--

BUT EVEN HERE
S EVIL KNOWS

FATHER WHAT
MAKES THE BIRDS
TAKE FLIGHT SO
SUDDENLY?

ONE
MOMENT THEY
WERE GENTLY
RESTING--AND
THEN?

CAN YOU NOT
SENSE THOSE DIRE
RUMBLINGS, MY
SON?

DARK ORIL IS ANGRY
AND HIS THUNDER SHAKES
THE VERY FOUNDATION
OF THE WORLD!

YET WE NEVER WITNESSED HER
EXECUTION, THOUGH THAT WAS
CLEARLY ORIL'S PURPOSE IN
DEMANDING OUR PRESENCE

NO, YOUNG PRINCE I SUSPECT THAT
WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF THE
GEMWORLD'S TRUE MONARCH!

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE LORD ORIL
FATHER! NONE HAS SUCCESSFULLY
CHALLENGED HIS REIGN FOR
TWENTY YEARS!

AND MIGHT I REMIND
MY BROTHER THAT WHATEVER
AMETHYST'S BEAUTY AND
THE PROSPECTS FOR HER
SURVIVAL--

--HE IS PLEDGED
TO MARRY MY GOOD
FRIEND LADY
SARDONYA--

AND HE
MAY NOT LOVE
ANOTHER.

THERE CAN BE ONLY
ONE REASON FOR SUCH
FLURY, ALTHOUGH I DARED
NOT ASSESS IT

THE PRINCESS
AMETHYST
LIVES!

DO YOU THINK
SO, FATHER?
CAN THAT MOST
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
STILL SURVIVE--

--WHEN AT
FORTRESS ORIL WE
SAW HER HELPLESS
IN SARDONYA'S
CLUTCHES?



WHILE AT CASTLE AMETHYST...

WE DID IT,
DIDN'T WE?

WE BEAT
DARK OPAL IN
HIS OWN
CASTLE!

WE DID NOT
DEFEAT HIM,
CHILD--

BUT WE DID
VERY WELL
INDEED!

AND YOU MY DEAR
WERE A MARVEL! THE
FRIGHTENED GUY IS
MAKING WAY FOR THE
WOMAN WHO WILL LEAD
OUR WORLD BACK TO
GLORY!

YES--I AM A WOMAN
NOW! IT FEELS A LITTLE
STRANGE BUT IT'S
WONDERFUL!

IT BRINGS ME
MUCH JOY TO
HEAR YOU TALK
THIS WAY ANOTHER
TO KNOW THAT YOU
WILL STAY WITH
US AND FIGHT
FOR YOUR
PEOPLE.

THAT YOU ARE
NOW PREPARED TO
LEAVE BEHIND
YOUR LIFE ON
EARTH!

LEAVE
EARTH--?

I'M READY
TO FIGHT
CITRINA, BUT

I'VE GOT TO GO
BACK AND EXPLAIN IT
TO MY MOM AND
DAD!

MEANWHILE...

I gotta tell you something... I'm havin' fun! Really! I mean how many grown-ups get to live out their childhood fantasies—and get paid for it? Not to mention, how many people can honestly claim to be having fun after working at the same job for thirty years? Only weirdos. So I'm a weirdo. But if you think I'm weird, you should see Marv Wolfman jumpin' up 'n' down like some kinda nut! "Hey Marv, what's happening? How come you jumpin' up 'n' down like some kinda nut?" "I'm happy is all! Paul (Levitz) just told me DC just signed the contracts that give us the comic book rights to *Star Trek*." "Yeah, so...?" "So we're gonna do a monthly comic and a special comic adaptation of *Star Trek III*!" And best of all I'm the Editor and Marty (Pasko) and Mike (Barr) are going to write the scripts for me." "Big deal. Another 'Trekkie' gone zonkers."

On the other hand, I'm weird for *Star Trek* myself, can't wait for the first issue. Wonder who's going to draw it? I'll ask Marv... "Hey, Marv! Marv!..." Too late. He beamed himself home.

Talking of contracts, we just completed negotiations with Charlton Comics which gives us the rights to most of their "Action Heroes"! At least that's what I called them when I created the line during my stint as Charlton's Executive Editor back in the sixties. I don't know how many of you go back that far but I was there when each of these characters was created. Heck, I was part of the creative process. I remember the energy and the fun of working with so many talented people to produce the likes of: Captain Atom, Blue Beetle, Judomaster, The Question, Sarge Steel, Peacemaker, Son of Vulcan.

Anyway, these characters were the foundation of a very exciting, creative and formative time in my professional life and it's a big kick to have them back. Whatever we decide to do with these titles (our plans are tentative at this writing), I'm sure you'll enjoy them as much as I have.

Incidentally, if you have any ideas about DC's future use of these titles, I'm willing to listen. My only thought at this time is to use the original creative teams wherever possible. Nostalgia? Maybe. But Steve Ditke drawing *Blue Beetle* could be just as exciting as it was once upon a time... Boy, that's a lot to look forward to



Onward...

Did you know that, 1. I goofed in last month's column. I watch "Nightwatch" in the early morning hours, not "Nightline". No such animal. You may not care but I suppose CBS does. 2. I goofed several columns ago in announcing the Maggin/Toth/Austin Superman-Batman Team-up would appear in the *DC Comics Presents Annual*. It's in the *Superman Annual*. 3. Weirdos tend to goof a lot. 4. We're planning a reprint line that I'm excited about! Generally, I think of reprints as being in a class with kissing your sister; something that one does out of obligation. Not these reprints! More on them in a future column. The business-types around here get nervous when I start gushing prematurely about pet projects.

Noteworthy

We've just changed the format of the "Superman" Sunday page. Distributed by The Tribune

Company Syndicate, Inc., the new *Superman Sunday* is designed to expand readership beyond the traditional adventure fans to include the general Sunday-Funnies audience. Parents, as well as boys and girls, are invited to participate in an exciting series of puzzles and mazes; *Superman Trivia*; a reader write-in "Ask Superman" column and even nostalgia, via a feature that looks at Superman art of the past.

The Sunday 'Super' Special is written by DC staffer Bob Rozakis and beautifully drawn by Jose Delbo and Sal Trapani (who also do a smashing job on the six-day a week dailies which are written by Paul Kupperberg). The new Sunday page has picked up many new papers, including the *New York Sunday News*, *Dailies* and the *Sunday* don't necessarily appear in the same papers and if one or both doesn't appear in your local paper, it may be because you haven't bounded the paper's Editor. While you think of it, why don't you drop him a note and "ask for it by name"?



"Thriller" is coming! First real outing for relative newcomer Robert Loren Fleming and obviously a labor of love for artist Trevor Von Eeden. If you want an exciting change of pace in comic reading, this is the one to try in '83! Non-returnable outlets only, we'll be on sale with "Thriller" late in the year. Look for it.

Thank you and Good afternoon

DPK

DC staffers and free-lancers alike were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Frank Chiaramonte on January 28th. He died of cancer at age 40. DC and Marvel fans knew Frank best for his work as an inker, notably on Curt Swan's *Superman* pencils and Mike Ploog's *Werewolf by Night*. Most fans were less aware of his work on *P.S.* magazine, an illustrated monthly maintenance manual for the army which he did regularly since coming to this country from Cuba in 1967.

Frank brought a high level of professionalism, skill and dedication to his work and he was a quiet, yet personable, gentle man. He will be missed by those who knew and worked with him.



...IS REUNITED WITH
THE REST OF HIS
FAMILY!

GORR-ANCH!

HAS OUR
FATHER SENT YOU
TO KILL US AT
LAST?

NO, MY BROTHER--
I FLED DARK OPAL'S
HOUSE LONG AGO!

I COULD NOT LIVE
WITH THE ONE WHO
HAD PUNISHED YOU--
SO TERRIBLY!

BUT YOU *MUST*! I CAME
TO ENLIST YOUR HELP--

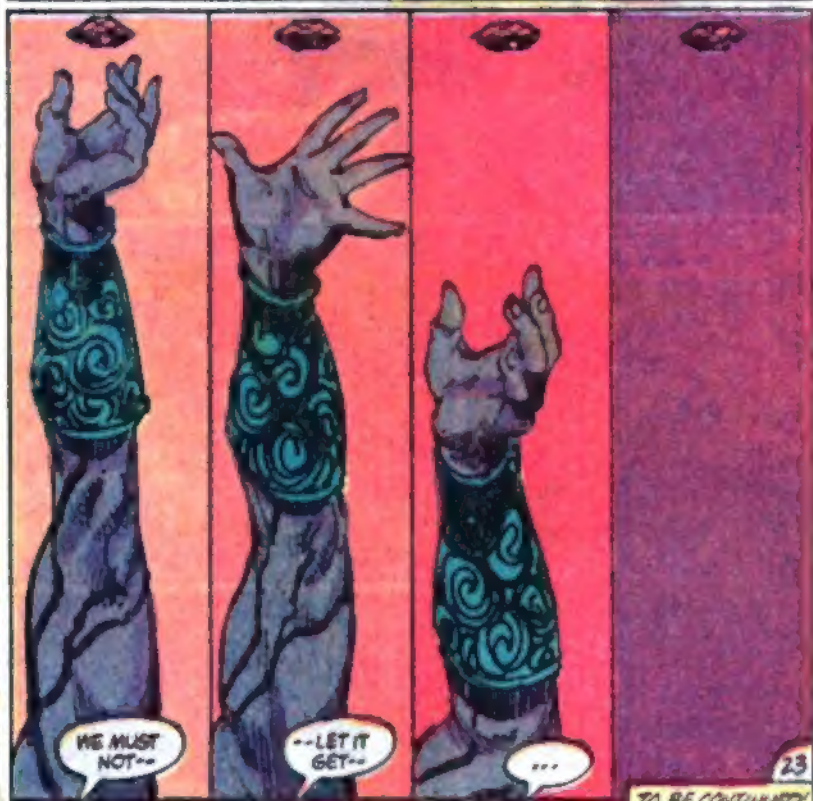
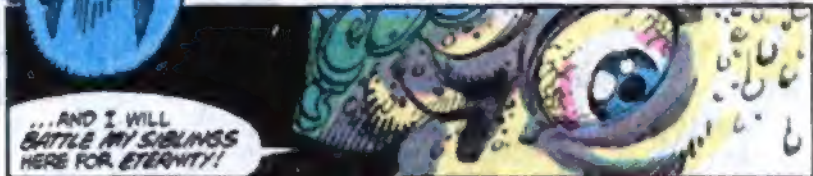
--TO OVERTHROW
DARK OPAL!



MYUSH--!
WE NOT SO
STUPID,
GORR-ANCH!

WE DON'T
BELIEVE
YOU!





He is truly one of the unsung masters of the field and with his exquisite work on AMETHYST, his true gift will be evident to all. Next month the always articulate artist himself promises to tell us a little bit more about the mystery behind the man.

Dear Karen:

I'll try to keep this short, for a change.

I was more fortunate than most to have been able to get a small preview xerox copies of the first page or two of AMETHYST. So I thought I had a fairly good idea of what to expect. I was wrong.

I expected Dark Opal to be the good guy (there was no script in these xeroxes). I was wrong. I expected then, that Carnelian was going to be the good guy. I was probably wrong, although it's possible he might yet turn out to be one of the good guys. Doubtful, but possible. It would sure take a few people by surprise, I'll bet.

Amethyst, as it turns out is apparently an adopted princess. The last page really shocked me. (a hard thing to do) No wonder she had to be adopted, it seems she is anything, but a native of the Gemworld. Is she really just dreaming these adventures in a realm which actually becomes a physical reality when she sleeps? If so, how many others know of this? Obviously not her parents. Dark Opal on the other hand knows of her appearances, and disappearances to the Gemworld. But how much more does he know about those reappearances?

Carnelian is also apparently only adopted. Is there a connection between him and Amethyst? If the adventures really take place in a real dreamworld of some sort or other, could it be that Carnelian and Amethyst are really brother and sister, or maybe neighbors, who are transported to the same world when they sleep, only to find themselves enemies, or allies on a much larger scale than when they are "awake"?

Just guess work at this point, but fun nonetheless. The story so far seems to be throwing unexpected curve after curve. Nothing, it seems, is to be taken for granted.

Thanks.

Wm. Decker

1114 Water

Eaton Rapids, Mich. 49827

You can't expect me to answer all your questions, without giving everything away, William, but I will say that the Gemworld is an actual place for Amy Winston, not a dreamworld, as you suggest. It's another dimension, another world, a unique world inhabited by magical people, dragons, monsters, fairies, unicorns... all having their own mystical and powerful powers. The origin of this jeweled realm will be revealed in upcoming issues, and it is fascinating, but until then, my lips are sealed.

Dear Editor:

The first issue of AMETHYST provided a refreshing journey into fantasy and imagination reminiscent of the beautiful landscapes created by C.S. Lewis and Lewis Carroll (Amy seems like a modern-day Alice). I was anticipating a top-notch tale of intrigue and adventure in a strange, colorful new world—I was certainly not disappointed!

Writers Mishkin and Cohn provided ample details and explanations of conditions and events in the plot, portraying Amy as a genuine 13 year old with an emotional and intellectual make-up appropriate for her age. Her parents were also presented realistically. The Gemworld characters seemed interesting, compelling and rightfully frightening.

In the final assessment of this issue, you have given us readers a thoughtful, suspenseful, well-developed story of fantasy and adventure with much potential for expansion of themes, bound to be a thoroughly successful and satisfying series!

Sincerely,

David Mercury

Toledo, OH

Thanks, David, I'm glad you enjoyed AMETHYST #1 as much and I'll personally guarantee that the best is yet to come! They don't call me the iron butterfly for nothing!

Dear Sirs,

AMETHYST is one of the best comics DC has put out. My husband plays Dungeons and Dragons, but I can't stand the game. Your new comic tells of different worlds and helps me understand the game my husband likes so well. I picked up the comic in the store one day just out of curiosity because my birthstone is the gem, amethyst. The characters in this comic are so human-like in personality that it gives the old fight against good and evil a new twist. I am looking forward to the next eleven issues and hope there might be more to come. Keep up the good work, Gary and Dan.

Sincerely, a fan,

Tamra Ashellton

85118 2360 W Apt 1

Roy, VT 04067

Dear Purple Prose,

I really enjoyed your first issue of AMETHYST because I'm a thirteen year old boy and I like stories about kids my age, especially fantasy. I only have one question to ask, after your twelfth issue of AMETHYST is published will there be more and if there will be more, will Amy Winston's parents ever find out about her Gemworld magic?

Your ardent fan,

Dan Tolliver

175 S. Florida Street

Buckhannon, West Va. 26201

P.S. How far are Castle Amethyst and Fortress Opal from each other?

The chances of releasing a second maxi-series of AMETHYST are very good, Dan, because of the overwhelmingly positive responses the book has been getting. It is too soon to know for sure, though, but as soon as we do find out some news, we'll be sure to let you know! And in answer to your other questions... Castle Amethyst and Fortress Opal are millions upon millions of gemstones apart and Herb and Marion Winston find out their daughter is a princess with magical powers —next issue. Don't miss it!

Dear Karen:

Night had fallen. The living room lamp, the only source of illumination in the sparsely-furnished apartment, burned intensely, desperately battling the enfolding darkness and casting bizarre shadows into the corners of the room. The burly, solitary figure huddled close to the lamp, all the better to examine the reading material clutched in his trembling hands. Against the strains of Alan Parsons Project and amidst the shadow creatures, the tale of Amethyst, Princess of Gem World, unfolded before his very eyes, regaling his sensibilities, striking deep within him to pull forth an appreciation for comic literature he had thought long dead. Awed, amazed, satisfied, the reader was shaking and speechless upon completion of the four-color magazine. So moved, he sat and attempted to gain control of the thoughts, images and emotions buzzing around the now-brighter room. Strangely, the shadow creatures had been replaced by swordsmen and sorcerers, mechanical cats and strange horses, and, most of all, by a beautiful, magical princess! "I know what I must do," he exclaimed, rushing to his typewriter. "I must sit down and write 'Purple Prose' to tell these people how I have been moved!" And, so I did, but I think it came out sort of lavender!

Truly appreciative,

Mike Christiansen

704 So. Third Street

Rockford, IL 61108

And on that pressaic note we'll be signing off for now. See you next month for lots of adventure, action and amazement!

Karen